

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 06619 071726Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1623

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

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AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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USEEC AND AMEMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: PARLIAMENT DEBATE POLICE TREATMENT OF DEPUTY

REF: MADRID 6526

1. THE TEXT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON ALLEGED
POLICE MISTREATMENT OF SOCIALIST (PSOE) DEPUTY JAIME BLANCO
WAS LEAKED TO THE PRESS SEPTEMBER 6. AS PREVIOUSLY
HINTED, (REFTEL, WITNESSES TOLD DIFFERENT VERSIONS ON
CRUCIAL POINTS - WHETHER BLANCO PROPERLY IDENTIFIED HIMSELF
AS A CORTES (PARLIAMENT) DEPUTY WHEN HE APPROACHED THE
POLICE, AND WHETHER HE INSULTED THE POLICE - BUT MOST
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PAGE 02 MADRID 06619 071726Z

WITNESSES SUPPORTED BLANCO'S STORY, AS DID THE COMMITTEE
IN ITS CONCLUSIONS.

2. OTHERWISE, THE STORY SEEMS CLEAR ENOUGH, AND AS
REPORTED REFLECTS LITTLE CREDIT ON THE POLICE. A
NUMBER OF PERSONS DRESSED AS PEASANTS WERE APPARENTLY
BEATING UP A DEMONSTRATOR. HE WAS RESCUED BY THE

CROWD, WHEREUPON ONE OF THE "PEASANTS" (SUBSEQUENTLY IDENTIFIED AS A POLICEMAN DREW A PISTOL, BEGAN RETREATING TOWARDS THE NEARBY POLICE BARRACKS, AND CALLED OUT TO HIS FELLOW POLICEMEN TO CHARGE. THEY DID SO, AND WERE BEATING UP ONE OF THE CROWD WHEN BLANCO INTERVENED.

3. THE CORTES LEADERSHIP HAS FIXED SEPTEMBER 13 AS THE NEXT PLENARY SESSION, AT WHICH TIME INTERIOR MINISTER MARTIN VILLA WILL REPORT ON THE BLANCO CASE, FOLLOWED BY A GENERAL DEBATE. THE GOVERNMENT (UCD) LEADERS HAVE MADE THE CASE A RELATIVELY SMALL ITEM OF THAT DAY'S AGENDA, SANDWICHED BETWEEN DISCUSSIONS OF ORGANIZING SEVEN LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES, AND EVIDENTLY HOPE IN THIS WAY TO REDUCE IT TO ITS PROPER PROPORTIONS. SOME ADDITIONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS DAMAGE IS STILL POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, ESPECIALLY IF MARTIN VILLA IN HIS REPORT APPEARS TO BE COVERING UP. EATON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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